

Activity 4

Rights and responsibilities in the classroom

Aim: To encourage children to think about both rights and responsibilities in the classroom and identify behaviour that respects and disrespects human rights. **Time:** 40 minutes. **Age:** 7+.

What you need: Paper and pencil (per child); flipchart or whiteboard; *Class charter of rights* and *Class charter of responsibilities* (on the CD, enlarge and display).

What to do

Explain that everyone at school has the right to learn, be safe and be happy. It is also our responsibility to make sure that we are not behaving in a way that disrespects the human rights of others.

Rights

Ask the pupils what can be done in their classroom to make sure that everyone is enjoying their right to:

- be safe;
- be happy;
- learn.

Ask them to work on their own to write up three things that will help these rights, eg:

The right to be SAFE – dangerous things to be put away

The right to be HAPPY – to be treated kindly

The right to LEARN – enough books and paper

Next, in pairs, children should pool their ideas and agree on the best three between them. Now hold a class discussion and draw up a class list of up to ten items on the board or flipchart that all agree on. This is their **Class charter of rights**.

Show and discuss the **Class charter of rights** drawn up by Year 6 pupils from a school in Hampshire. What do they think of their ideas? Would they add or change anything? Have they thought about everyone who uses this classroom, eg teachers, other classes, cleaners?

Responsibilities

Explain that everyone in school has the right to learn and be safe and happy. But if that is a right for us, then it is a right for everyone else too. Each of us has a responsibility to respect the rights of others. We need to ensure that by enjoying our rights we are not disrespecting the rights of other people.

Teachers note: For further information on developing class charters including how to explore the relationship between rights and responsibilities see the advice developed by UNICEF as part of their Rights Respecting Schools Award programme. <http://rrsa.unicef.org.uk>

Source: *Our World Our Rights*, Activity 1.

Discussion

As a class, discuss some of the following:

- Can you think of some examples of people disrespecting other people's human rights? Why do some people behave that way?
- How can we avoid behaving unfairly and disrespecting the rights of others?
- Are there differences in rights and responsibilities for teachers and other adults?
- How does it feel to have your rights disrespected by others?

Now, ask the class to look at the **Class charter of responsibilities** made by Year 6 pupils. Can the children make a similar **Class charter of responsibilities** to put up beside their **Class charter of rights**?

Extension/homework

- In groups, children can make lists of rights and responsibilities in the playground, at home or in the community.

Rights

We all have the right...

- to receive a good and fun education, which is broad and balanced
- to be provided with a safe and secure classroom environment
- to privacy eg our lockers and trays
- to be listened to and given the opportunity to express our opinions
- to good quality resources
- to teachers and adults who are caring and fair
- to have fun and enjoy our time in Year 6, especially during playtimes
- to friendships and to work cooperatively with others

See CD
RESOURCES
for
class charters

Responsibilities

We all have the responsibility...

- to work and learn to our full potential by making sure that we complete our work to our best standard and within the given time limit
- to look after our class environment, especially by keeping it clean and tidy
- to make sure we ask for permission before going in others' lockers or trays
- to listen to and respect each others' views and opinions
- to look after and respect our classroom resources
- to show respect and be polite and helpful to all adults
- to behave in a sensible and mature way during lessons and playtimes
- to look out for each other, making sure everyone is happy